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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Heaton DATE TYPED: 02/05/02 HB 76/aHEC
 SHORT TITLE: High School Curricula SB _____
 ANALYST: Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY02	FY03	FY02	FY03		
		\$0.1 Significant			General Fund

Parenthesis) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 71
 Relates to HJM 11 & SJM 10

RESOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Department of Education (SDE)
 Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment

Where appropriate throughout the title and in the bill, the House Education Committee amendment strikes “curricula” and replaces it with “standards and benchmarks,” strikes the term “test” and replaces it with “criteria,” and strikes the terms “placement into” and replaces them with “placement assessment(s)”.

The amendment also changes language regarding responsibilities for implementing the provisions of the bill to stipulate that the SDE and CHE shall jointly implement the provisions of the bill.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 76 requires that high school curricula be aligned with the knowledge and skills necessary for work and post-secondary education. The bill further requires that the SDE and the Commission on Higher Education collaborate in aligning high school graduation examinations with tests used for college admissions and placement into college-level courses

Significant Issues

The CHE analysis states that this legislation aligns with actions taken recently by the CHE and SDE to support the development of a strong New Mexico P-16 Partnership. On November 16, 2001 the CHE formally endorsed proposed legislation for a P-16 advisory council to the CHE and SDE to align educational policies between public schools and higher education so that all students complete high school prepared to succeed in post-secondary education and work. Both agencies are also directed to establish an integrated statewide P-16 student data system.

In addition, the analysis states, "More recently, in January 2002, both the CHE and the SBE formally adopted a 'P-16 Framework for Accelerated Learning Options', also part of the ongoing P-16 Partnership established between both bodies. This statement formally reflects the consensus of both boards to develop a statewide policy for implementing the provisions of the bill". In addition, the CHE recently identified its four priorities for 2001-2002 and listed P-16 Partnerships as its third priority.

While the State Board of Education (SBE) are supportive of aligning curricula and continue working collaboratively with the CHE, the SDE analysis points out that responsibility for establishing educational policy, including public school curricula, is constitutionally vested in the SBE.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill contains no appropriation. However, according to the SDE, the fiscal impact would be significant due to negotiated agreements and contracts with outside parties to perform the required actions of this bill.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SDE indicates the bill supports the SBE's performance measure in the number of standards aligned with state assessments. The SBE has established performance standards and benchmarks pursuant to its constitutional mandate. Student academic achievement is addressed in *Standards for Excellence*, which specifications for the Education Plan for Student Success (EPSS), The New Mexico Student Achievement System and the accountability framework specified in the New Mexico Accountability Program.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

If this bill were enacted, according to the SDE analysis, the department would have to determine the content and standards used to develop examinations at two- and four- year institutions. In addition the collaboration mandated by HB 76 would require the establishment of more intense and time consuming working relationships among the institutions affected.

DUPLICATION

House Bill 76 is identical to Senate Bill 71, High School Curricula. It relates to HJM 11 SJM 10, both titled Preschool through Post Secondary System.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The SDE analysis suggests there is a conflict between this bill and the SBE's constitutional responsibilities.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How is this bill in conflict with the SBE's constitutional responsibilities?
2. Doesn't the New Mexico Constitution state that the SBE will carry out its mandates as provided by law?
3. the CHE appears very satisfied with efforts made so far to align curricula. Does the SBE share this feeling ?

LB/njw:ar